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STATEMENT SUMMARIZING INTERVIEW

The undersigned thanks the Examiner and his Supervisor, Ms. Twyler Lamb, for the courtesies and thoughtful treatment afforded during a telephone interview conducted on November 13, 2007. This Supplemental Amendment is being filed to implement claim language agreed upon during the interview. A statement summarizing the interview follows.

The Examiner confirmed that he had studied the Amendment filed November 7, 2007, and that in his mind, amendments that inserted the notion of "local" printing completely overcame the § 102 rejection over Sharma. In addition, the Examiner confirmed that he understood that the claimed setting screen displayed options for both of a print setting and a transmission setting. He suggested language to remove all possible ambiguity over the nature of the setting screen. This language has largely been adopted, in keeping with the disclosure commencing at line 31 of page 44, which specifies that there are "configuration options" for controlling the operational mode.

The Examiner further stated that he would conduct an updated search, and that he consequently would withhold an indication of allowability until after the updated search had been completed. The Examiner specifically indicated that he would conduct a search in an effort to locate a prior art reference that showed a fax machine, controllable from a local computer, so as to either print locally or transmit remotely.

The undersigned explained that even if such a reference were located, the invention still would not have been obvious. In particular, Sharma describes an

arrangement in which a user can select a fax driver from a "print" command in order to fax a document remotely, or can select a print driver from a "print" command in order to print locally. However, Sharma does not describe an arrangement in which a user can select either of printing or faxing from a "print" command. Thus, even if a reference were located that showed a fax machine that could be controlled to print locally or transmit remotely, a combination with Sharma still would not yield the present invention. In particular, there still would be no teaching or suggestion of a setting screen which displays configuration options for both a print setting and a transmission setting.

Moreover, it is respectfully pointed out that a previously-applied patent shows precisely a fax machine, controllable from a local computer, that can either print locally or transmit remotely. Reifman, U.S. Patent 5,539,530, describes a facsimile machine that can be controlled by a computer via a serial interface so as to permit the user of the computer to fax from a Windows® application, to print from a Windows® application, or to scan from a Windows® application:

"Description:

"Users will be able to control features of their IFAX 10 from remote locations using Windows PC's connected via serial or through any PSTN interface using an IFAX or EFAX PC.

"Options:

"Fax From Windows allows users to send, receive, broadcast, poll, etc. from a Windows platform using an IFAX Machine as a gateway.

"Remote Printing From Windows allows users to print documents from Windows using the IFAX Machine.

“Remote Scanning From Windows allows users to scan documents to their PC using the IFAX Machine.” (Column 68, lines 34 to 46.)

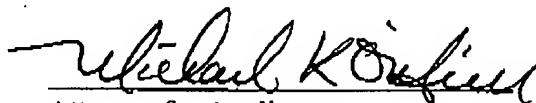
It is therefore respectfully asserted that the Examiner already has available to him the precise reference for which he indicated an interest. It is further respectfully asserted that even if Reifman and Sharma were considered in combination, the claimed invention would not have been obvious for at least the reasons stated above. Of course, Applicants maintain their prior position that there has not been an articulated rationale which identifies a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the elements of Reifman with Sharma.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that once the Examiner has completed his update search, he will reach the conclusion that the claims herein recite subject matter that would not have been obvious from the known prior art. Allowance of the claims is therefore respectfully requested.

On the other hand, at the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner indicated that if his update search turned up art that made it difficult, in his mind, to allow the case, that he would telephone the undersigned before issuing a further Office Action. Such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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